

Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District

September 26, 2005

CENAO-TS-REG 05-V2151

FEDERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The District Engineer and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality have received a joint application for Federal and State permits as described below:

APPLICANT

Stafford Associates, LTD, Partnership #2 C\o Robert Kaufman 1615 M Street NW, Suite 850 Washington DC 20036

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: The project site is located on the southern side of Courthouse Road and west of Colonial Forge High School in Stafford County, Virginia. The property drains toward the Accokeek Creek and its tributaries within the Lower Potomac watershed.

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE: The prospective permittee plans to construct a 210-acre residential subdivision on the property. Construction activities necessary to complete the proposed development would entail site grading to allow for the County-planned connection of Woodcutter's Road through the community, building pad sites, and access roads to residential lots. This site grading would result in the loss of waters of the United States to the following: 0.04-acres of palustrine forested wetlands, 0.04-acre of palustrine open water, 2,085-linear feet (0.57-acre) of perennial stream, and 1,800-linear feet (0.25-acre) of intermittent stream. The applicant is proposing to purchase 0.12 credits from an approved wetland mitigation bank fore the unavoidable loss of 0.04 forested wetlands at a 2:1 ratio and 0.04 credits for 0.04-acre of open water wetlands at a 1:1 ratio. The applicant is proposing to restore and stabilize the banks on 2,325-linear feet of Accokeek Creek that runs through the project site for impacts to waters of the United States.

In addition to the required Department of the Army permit, the applicant must obtain a Virginia Water Protection Permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) assuring that applicable laws and regulations pertaining to water quality are not violated.

<u>AUTHORITY:</u> Permits are required pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217) and Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia.

<u>FEDERAL EVALUATION OF APPLICATION:</u> The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed

activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that reasonably may be expected from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All of the proposal's relevant factors will be considered, including conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use classification, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The Environmental Protection Agency's "Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material" will also be applied (Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act).

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Anyone may request a public hearing to consider this permit application by writing to the District Engineer within 30 days of the date of this notice, stating specific reasons for holding the public hearing. The District Engineer will then decide if a hearing should be held.

Preliminary review indicates that: (1) no environmental impact statement will be required; (2) no species of fish, wildlife, or plant (or their critical habitat) listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205) will be affected; and (3) no known properties eligible for inclusion or included in the National Register of Historic Places are in or near the permit area, or would likely be affected by the proposal. Additional information might change any of these findings. For compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the applicant must certify that federally licensed or permitted activities affecting Virginia's coastal zone (Tidewater) will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program (VCP). For more information or to obtain a list of the enforceable programs of the VCP, contact the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Impact Review at (804) 698-4330 or e-mail: elirons@deq.state.va.us.

STATE EVALUATION OF APPLICATION: To comply with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (the Act), any applicant for a Corps permit for a proposal, which may result in a discharge to State waters must provide the Corps with a certification from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The DEQ must certify that water quality will be maintained in accordance with State Water Control Law (state law) and that the activity will comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, and 306 and 307 of the Act. A certification must set forth any effluent limitations and other limitations, conditions and/or requirements needed to assure compliance with the Act itself and with other appropriate requirements of state law. In Virginia, the 401 Water Quality Certification is issued as a Virginia Water Protection Permit.

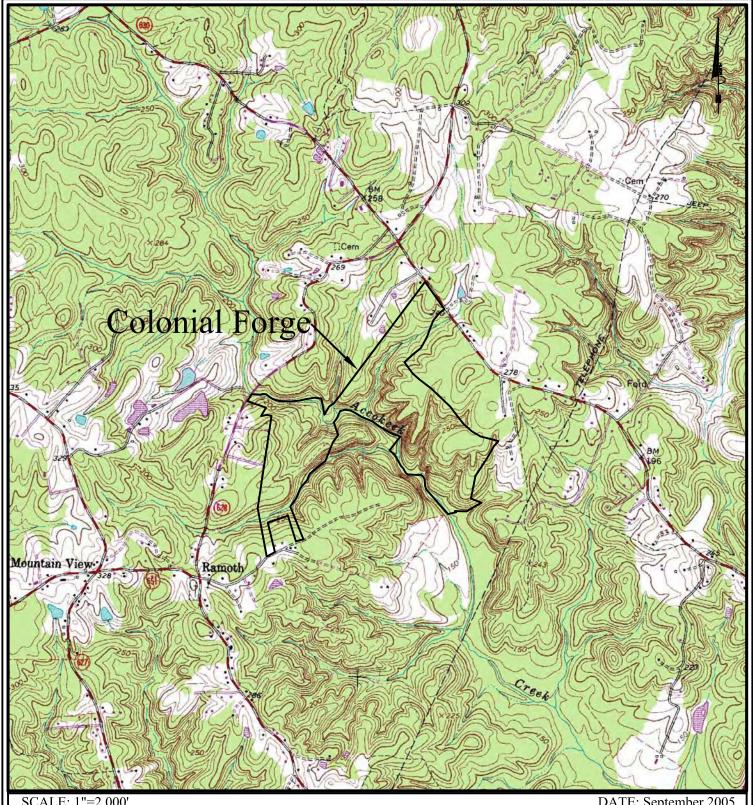
<u>COMMENT PERIOD</u>: Comments on this project should be made in writing, addressed to the Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers Potomac Field Office, PO Box 1704, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650, and should be received by the close of business on October 26, 2005.

If you have any questions about this project or the permit process, call:

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Ms. Regena Bronson at 301.475.2720

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

BRUCE F. WILLIAMS Chief, Northern Virginia Regulatory Section



DATE: September 2005 SCALE: 1"=2,000'

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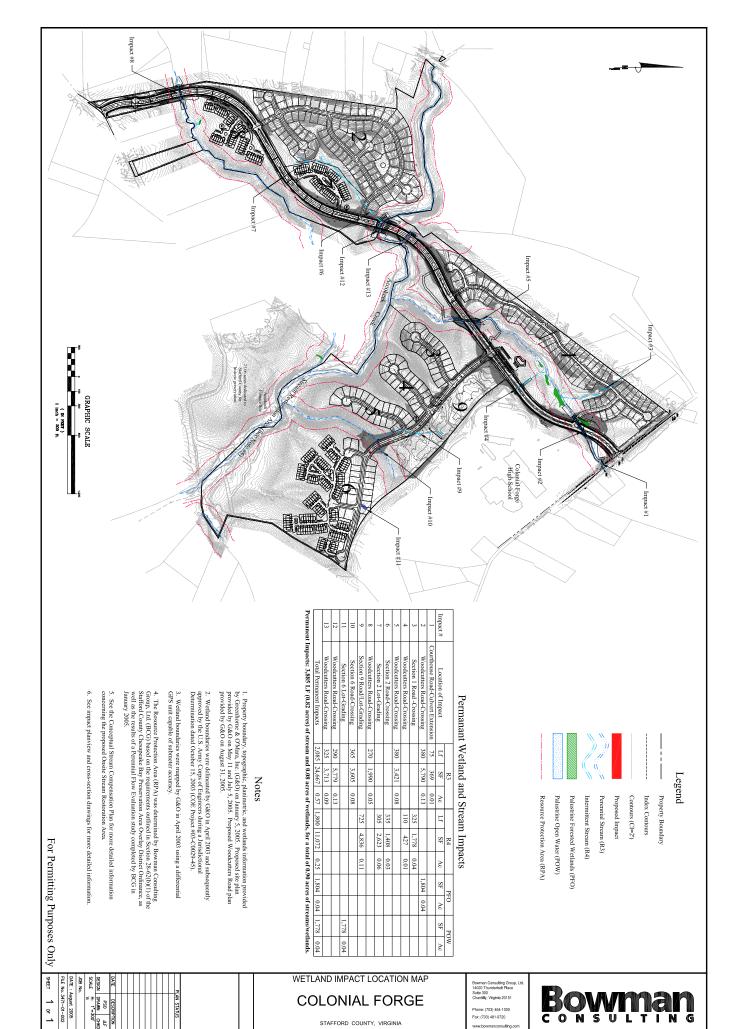
www.bowmanconsulting.com

Colonial Forge
38°25'54"N, 77°27'29"W Stafford USGS Quad Map
Accokeek Creek Watershed, HUC 02070011 - Lower Potomac
Stafford County, Virginia

USGS Quadrangle Map

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